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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Edwards Air Force Base, North Base
(Edwards Air Force Base, Muroc Flight Test Base)
North Base Road
Boron Vicinity
Kern County
California

HAER No. CA-170

Photographers' Credits:

Credit BG: Brian Grogan, Photography and Preservation Associates, Inc., September 1995

Credit PSR: Philipp S. Rittermann, Photography and Preservation Associates, Inc., September 1995

Credit USAF: Photographic copy of original United States Air Force photograph; photographers' names undetermined, dates as cited

CA-170-1

Credit USAF, ca. 1945. Original housed in the Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Record Group 373. National Archives. Cartographic and Architectural Branch. Washington, D.C. Oblique aerial photo 16PS5M79-1-0-46-4:3:1146-12:12000-3500N11745W looks northeast across North Base, then known as Muroc Flight Test Base. Rogers Dry lake is in view to the right, bordered by four hangars; 6,000 foot runway built in 1943 is in background. Fenced area in immediate foreground (not extant in 1995) was a "Chemical Storage Area" also designated a fuel storage facility on some engineering drawings; two small ponds nearby were for sewage sludge. Black square in middle of view is recently oiled or paved parking lot surrounding Building 4340 (T-73), the Recreation Hall/Chapel (not extant in 1995).

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CA-170-2

Credit USAF, ca. 1945. Original housed in the Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Record Group 373. National Archives. Cartographic and Architectural Branch. Washington, D.C. Oblique aerial photo 16PS5M79-1-0-48-4:3:1152:12:12000-3500N11745W looking roughly north northeast across North Base from a position over Rogers Dry Lake. Largest structures are hangars, beginning with Building 4305 (Unicon Portable Hangar) at view center and continuing to right with Buildings 4401 and 4402 (Type HANG-N-A hangars), with Building 4505 (Type HANG-P-A hangar) in the distance. Bachelor Officers' Quarters known as the "Desert Rat Hotel" (T-1) was located adjacent to Building 4305.

CA-170-3

Credit USAF, ca. 1945. Original housed in the Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Record Group 373. National Archives. Cartographic and Architectural Branch. Washington, D.C. Aerial orthophoto map 16PS5M79-IV23 of Muroc Flight Test Base (North Base), north faces up with runway at the top and Rogers Dry Lake at the lower right. Ammunition huts (not extant in 1995) appear in a cluster just south of the west end of the runway. Note runway markings on lakebed. Linear feature at very top of image is rocket sled test track designed and built 1944-1945.

CA-170-4

Credit USAF, ca. 1945. Original housed in the Photograph Files, AFFTC/HO, Edwards AFB, California. Low level oblique aerial view of Muroc Flight Test Base (North Base), looking southwest along flightline. HANG-P-A hangar (Building 4505) is in the right foreground. A Bell XP-59A Airacomet, the United States military's first jet propelled aircraft, is being towed on the apron toward the control tower. Other aircraft in the foreground include Douglas DC-3s, North American Aviation P-51 Mustangs, and Lockheed P-38 Lightnings.

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- CA-170-5** Credit USAF, ca. 1942. Original housed in the Photograph Files, AFFTC/HO, Edwards AFB, California. View of Bell Aircraft XP-59A Airacomet in flight. This was the United States military's first jet propelled aircraft which was extensively flight tested in secrecy at the Muroc Flight Test Base (North Base).
- CA-170-6** Credit USAF, April, 1945. Original in the possession of Ken G. Oldfield, Laguna Hills, California. View looking west across North Base flightline of XP-80s Shooting Stars undergoing accelerated service tests. HANG-N-A hangars No. 1 (Building 4401) and No. 2 (Building 4402) appear at left of view, with runway control tower (T-65, or Building 4500) at far right. Flight operations offices were in T-42 (Building 4502) at base of control tower; this structure was not extant in 1995. In the background between the control tower and Building 4402 lies T-15, officer's quarters.
- CA-170-7** Credit USAF, ca. 1952. Original housed in the Photograph Files, AFFTC/HO, Edwards AFB, California. Oblique aerial view of North Base AFFTC (Air Force Flight Test Center) looking west northwest. The flight line at the edge of Rogers Dry Lake appears in the foreground, served by the facility's four hangars. Temporary structures beyond the hangars were demolished later in the 1950s. The fence that formerly surrounded the swimming pool in earlier photos has been taken down. In the distance lies the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Edwards Test Station, in its pre-1953 configuration.
- CA-170-8** Credit USAF, ca. 1952. Original housed in the Photograph Files, AFFTC/HO, Edwards AFB, California. Oblique low-level aerial view of North Base looking northeast. Based on positions and types of aircraft and automobiles, this photo taken same day as HAER photo CA-170-7. Most temporary structures in this view have been demolished with the exception of the hangars. The concrete foundations remain of many structures, while no trace was found of others.

- CA-170-9** Credit USAF, ca. 1955. Original housed in the Photograph Files, AFFTC/HO, Edwards AFB, California. View of Lockheed XVF-1 Pogo, an experimental vertical take-off and landing aircraft at North Base. Photograph was taken on the apron between buildings 4401 and 4402, looking north northeast towards back of Building 4402 and officers' quarters (T-15) beyond.
- CA-170-10** Credit PSR. View looks southeast at North Base, as seen from Building E-59 at the nearby Jet Propulsion Laboratory Edwards Facility. From left to right, the most prominent features on the skyline are Building 4505 with its ancillary buildings; Building 4500, Control Tower; followed by Buildings 4402 (Hangar No. 2), 4401 (Hangar No. 1), and 4305 (Unicon Portable Hangar) with their respective ancillary structures.
- CA-170-11** Credit PSR. View looks south southeast at North Base, from a point near the rocket sled test track. From left to right, the most prominent buildings on the skyline are Building 4505 with its ancillary buildings; Building 4500, Control Tower; followed by Buildings 4402 (Hangar No. 2), 4401 (Hangar No. 1), and 4305 (Unicon Portable Hangar) with their respective ancillary structures. The large structure in the distance at the far right of the view is the Test Support Facility at South Base.
- CA-170-12** Credit PSR. View looks east northeast (64°) along North Base Road, showing North Base as it appears on approach by automobile. From left to right, one sees Building 4505 with its ancillary buildings; Building 4500, Control Tower; followed by Buildings 4402 (Hangar No. 2), 4401 (Hangar No. 1), and 4305 (Unicon Portable Hangar) with their respective ancillary structures.
- CA-170-13** Credit BG. North Base hangars as seen from the edge of Rogers Dry Lake, looking north northwest (338°). The security fence surrounding the hangars and aircraft apron appears in the foreground. From left to right appear Building 4305 (Unicon Portable Hangar), Building 4401 (Hangar No. 1), Building 4400 (warehouse), Building 4402 (Hangar No. 2) and Building 4505.

- CA-170-14** Credit BG. First of three panoramic views of North Base as seen from top of Building 4500, Control Tower. View looks southwest (220°) at taxiway, hangars, apron, and edge of Rogers Dry Lake. Buildings in distance in left of view are part of Edwards Air Force Base's Main Base.
- CA-170-15** Credit BG. Second of three panoramic views of North Base as seen from top of Building 4500, Control Tower. View looks west (268°) at North Base complex. In foreground is taxiway, with Building 4456 (Fire House No. 4) at right. Building 4452 (Utility Vault) appears in extreme left foreground, with Building 4412 (Liquid Oxygen Repair Facility) and Building 4410 (Liquid Oxygen Storage) in extreme left background. In view over Building 4456 is the "loop" bound by Third, Fourth, A, and B Streets. Concrete slabs are all that remain of military housing constructed in the 1940s.
- CA-170-16** Credit BG. Third of three panoramic views of North Base as seen from top of Building 4500, Control Tower. View looks west (268°) at ancillary structures surrounding Building 4505. In immediate foreground is Building 4499 Loading Ramp. To the far upper left is Building 4497 Guard House, adjacent to Building 4496 Security Facility. At the extreme right of the view is the chimney and western corner of Building 4505 to which is attached a large light-colored wing used as offices and workspaces; to the immediate southwest of this wing stands Building 4498 Supply Warehouse. In the background, just above Building 4498 in view, stands Building 4494 Cafeteria. The round drum to the right of Building 4494 is Building 4503, a 500,000 gallon water tank which supplies the firefighting system; to the immediate right of the tank is Building 4504 Deluge Water Pumping Station which contains large pumps for firefighting. Just visible above the water tank is Building 4493 Gymnasium.

- CA-170-17 Photographic copy of initial site plan for North Base: AF Job No. 1045, Military Construction: Muroc Bombing Range, Muroc Lake, California; Materiel Test Site: **Location Plan**, Sheet No. 1 of 11, May 1942. Records on file at AFFTC/CE-CECC-B (Design/Construction Flight/RPMC), Edwards AFB, California.
- CA-170-18 Photographic copy of site plan for additions to North Base: Job No. Muroc A(511), Military Construction, Third District Region, San Bernardino, Calif[ornia]; Muroc Bombing Range, Muroc Lake, Calif; **Additional Temporary Construction, Materiel Center Flight Test Base, Location Plan**, February 1943. Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives, Pacific Southwest Region
- CA-170-19 Photographic copy of an as-constructed site plan for additions to North Base: Job No. Muroc A(511), Military Construction, Third District Region, San Bernardino, Calif[ornia]; Muroc Bombing Range, Muroc Lake, Calif; **Additional Temporary Construction, Materiel Center Flight Test Base, Location Grading & Paving Plan**, Sheet No. 1 of 21, March 1943. Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives, Pacific Southwest Region
- CA-170-20 Photographic copy of an as-constructed site plan for additions to North Base: Job No. A(8-1), Military Construction, Materiel Command Flight Test Base, Muroc, California; **Additional Construction, Location Plan**, Sheet No. 2, October 1943. Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives, Pacific Southwest Region
- CA-170-21 Photographic copy of a keyed site plan for North Base: Military Construction, Muroc Flight Test Base, Muroc, California; **General Layout Plan**, December 1944. Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives, Pacific Southwest Region

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Photographic copy of an as-constructed site plan for North Base: Job No. Muroc AFB A-52, War Department-Corps of Engineers, Office of the District Engineer, Los Angeles, California: Muroc Air Force Base, Muroc, California; **Additonal Sprinkler Facilities, Test Base, Elec[trical] Distr[ibution] & Pump House No. 3 Details**, Sheet No. 14 of 17, October 1950. This drawing gives the contemporary temporary building numbers (T-xx) for all structures at North Base in 1950. *Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives, Pacific Southwest Region*

CA-170-23

Photographic copy of an as-constructed site plan for North Base: Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, Edwards, California: **North Base Site Plan**, February 1970. This drawing shows the North Base building distribution substantially as it appears in 1995. Records on file at AFFTC/CE-CECC-B (Design/Construction Flight/RPMC), Edwards AFB, California.